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April 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

RE: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods.

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by FDA to be truthful and not misleading. I believe that the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained. Any phrase involving the word "pasteurization" is misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling.

As to the kind of label used, I believe that label should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer, on the front of the package.

Because of the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire. Irradiation remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. ***I have a right to know if this process has been used on my food.***

Sincerely,



cc: Senator Wayne Allard
Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Congressman Thomas Tancredo

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